



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

1930 Ninth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601  
PH: 406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584  
Fax: 406.457.8990

August 16, 2010

To Members of the Helena City Commission: Mayor Smith, Commissioners Cartwright, Ellison, Elsaesser, and Thweatt

The Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health supports passage of a Complete Streets Ordinance for the city of Helena. We urge Mayor Smith and the Commissioners to vote in favor of an ordinance.

Across the country, Complete Streets policies and ordinances are being legislated to require communities and road agencies to consider nonmotorized and public transit accommodations to our transportation corridors in state, regional and local planning and implementation processes as a way to create more walkable, bikeable places where children and families can be physically active.

Complete streets policies ensure that infrastructure is **designed and operated to enable safe access for all users**. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities can move safely along and across a complete street. There is no prescription for what a Complete Street looks like. A Complete Street in a rural area will look different from a Complete Street in a highly urban area, but both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.

**Complete Streets promote public health** by making it safe and convenient for children and families to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives as a way to combat the obesity epidemic, which has caused an increase in preventable chronic disease—among children and adults alike. **Complete Streets improve safety** and reduce crashes by providing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, such as safe crossings, sidewalks, or on-road bicycle lanes. **Complete Streets are good for the environment** by reducing vehicle miles traveled, a goal of Helena's Growth Plan. **Complete Streets boost the economy** by increasing residential property values because homeowners are willing to pay more to live in walkable communities and businesses located along Complete Streets often see an increase in sales.

We support a Complete Streets Ordinance for Helena because it is in line with community goals for public health, safety, environmental quality, and economic growth. The passage of a Complete Streets Ordinance will ensure that Helena maintains and improves its reputation as a healthy, livable community.

Thank you,

Ken Wallace, Chair  
Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health

*"To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and Clark County Residents."*